

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 4-7, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:  
image formation means for forming toner images on an image holding member;

primary transfer means for transferring toner images formed on the image holding member onto an intermediate transfer member at a primary transfer portion;

secondary transfer means for transferring toner images on the intermediate transfer member onto a recording medium at a secondary transfer portion; and

a contact member which is electrically grounded and first contacts the intermediate transfer member downstream of the primary transfer portion in the moving direction of the intermediate transfer member,

wherein the following relation is satisfied:

$$-2.0 \leq \ln(V_{tr}) - L / (s \times \log \rho) \leq -1.0$$

where:

L (mm) represents a distance ~~the distance~~ from the primary transfer portion to a position where the contact member first contacts the intermediate transfer member,

$V_{tr}$  (V) represents an ~~the~~ absolute value of a voltage applied to the primary transfer means,

s (mm/sec) represents a moving ~~the moving~~ speed of the intermediate transfer member, and

$\rho$  ( $\Omega/\square$ ) represents a surface ~~the surface~~ resistivity of the intermediate transfer member.

2. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the primary transfer means include a transfer member that contacts the intermediate transfer member.

3. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate transfer member has a belt shape, and the contact member has a roller shape.

4. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the contact member is a driving roller which moves the intermediate transfer member, and the following relation is satisfied:

$$20 \leq (\log p) \times R \times \theta / 360 \leq 200$$

where:

R (mm) represents a diameter ~~the diameter~~ of the driving roller, and

$\theta$  represents a winding ~~the winding~~ angle of the intermediate transfer member about the driving roller.

5. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the contact member is a driving roller which moves the intermediate transfer member, and the relation of

$$160 \leq (\log p) \times R \times \theta / 360 \leq 200$$

is satisfied

in which R (mm) represents a diameter ~~the diameter~~ of the driving roller,

and

$\theta$  represents a winding ~~the winding~~ angle as to the driving roller of the intermediate transfer member.

6. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:  
a developer that forms toner images on an image holding member;  
a primary transfer device that transfers toner images formed on the image holding member onto an intermediate transfer member at a primary transfer portion;  
a secondary transfer device that transfers toner images on the intermediate transfer member onto a recording medium at a secondary transfer portion; and  
a contact member which is electrically grounded and first contacts the intermediate transfer member downstream of the primary transfer portion in the moving direction of the intermediate transfer member,

wherein the following relation is satisfied:

$$-2.0 \leq \ln(V_{tr}) - L / (s \times \log \rho) \leq -1.0$$

where:

$L$  (mm) represents a distance ~~the distance~~ from the primary transfer portion to a position where the contact member first contacts the intermediate transfer member,

$V_{tr}$  (V) represents an ~~the~~ absolute value of a voltage applied to the primary transfer device ~~means~~,

$s$  (mm/sec) represents a moving ~~the moving~~ speed of the intermediate transfer member, and

$\rho$  ( $\Omega/\square$ ) represents ~~the~~ a surface resistivity of the intermediate transfer

member.

7. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus comprising:

image formation means for forming respective toner images on a plurality of image holding members;

primary transfer means for transferring the respective toner images formed on the image holding members onto an intermediate transfer member at respective primary transfer portions, the toner images being superposed one on another to form a multi-toner image;

secondary transfer means for transferring the multi-toner image on the intermediate transfer member onto a recording medium at a secondary transfer portion; and

a contact member which is electrically grounded and first contacts the intermediate transfer member downstream of a last ~~the~~ primary transfer ~~portions~~ portion in the moving direction of the intermediate transfer member,

wherein the following relation is satisfied:

$$-2.0 < \ln(V_{tr}) - L / (s \times \log p) \leq -1.0$$

where:

L (mm) represents a distance ~~the distance~~ from a last primary transfer portion to a position where the contact member first contacts the intermediate transfer member,

V<sub>tr</sub> (V) represents an ~~the~~ absolute value of a voltage applied to the primary transfer means at the last primary transfer portion,

s (mm/sec) represents a moving ~~the moving~~ speed of the intermediate transfer member, and

$\rho(\Omega/\square)$  represents ~~the~~ a surface resistivity of the intermediate transfer member.

8. (Original) An image formation apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the respective toner images include four different color toner images, and the multi-toner image is a four-color toner image.